

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 05429 251617Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
OIC-02 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7341
INFO NAM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL BELGRADE 5429

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG
SUBJ: NAM MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ELECTS OFFICERS

1. THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PC) FOR THE BELGRADE NAM
MINISTERIAL MEETING ENDED ITS WORK JULY 24 IN RECORD TIME.
LAST ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE THE SELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTERS ON ACCEPTANCE OF NEW
MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

2. YUGOSLAVIA AS HOST WILL BE PRESIDENT. SRI LANKA WILL
HAVE STATUS EX OFFICIO. THERE ARE TEN VICE-PRESIDENTS:
TUNISIA, GHANA, SWAZILAND, TANZANIA, IRAQ, PLO, MALAYSIA,
CUBA, PANAMA AND CYPRUS. INDIA WILL CHAIR THE POLITICAL
COMMITTEE, GUYANA THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, AND CAMEROON
WILL BE RAPORTEUR.

3. RECOMMENDED TO THE MINISTERS FOR ACCEPTANCE AS GUESTS OF
THE CONFERENCE WERE THE UN COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA, THE GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF UNCTAD, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNIDO, AND
PAKISTAN. NO OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED TO PAKISTAN ALTHOUGH TWO
STATES INDICATED THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO
PROVIDE A DECLARATION OF INTENT TO OBSERVE NAM PRINCIPLES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05429 251617Z

4. IN ITS JULY 24 MEETING, THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE PASSED
ON WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTERS THE APPLICATION OF
BOLIVIA, WHICH HAD EARLIER REQUESTED THAT ITS APPLICATION BE
WITHDRAWN BUT RESUBMITTED IT, AND SAN MARINO, WHICH HAD
SUBMITTED ITS APPLICATION LATE. COSTA RICA WAS EARLIER
DROPPED FROM CONSIDERATION DUE TO LACK OF FORMAL APPLICATION.

5. THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL POINT RAISED IN THE PC (AT BOTH THE JULY 22 AND 24 SESSIONS) WAS THE QUESTION OF THE INCLUSION OF WESTERN SAHARA ON THE AGENDA; MOROCCO OPPOSING ITS INCLUSION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE OAU HAD AT KHARTOUM DECIDED ON THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND ALGERIA INSISTING ON ITS RETENTION. IT WAS DECIDED TO RETAIN THE SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA BUT TO TAKE NOTE OF MOROCCO'S RESERVATION.

6. THE YUGOSLAV PRESS REPORTS (EMBASSY CANNOT YET CONFIRM) THAT THE MALTESE FINALLY SUCCEEDED JULY 24 IN INSERTING IN THE CONFERENCE AGENDA, AS A SEPARATE POINT, THE PROPOSED APPROVAL BY THE CONFERENCE ON THE MALTESE DECISION TO ELIMINATE ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES FROM MALTA BY MARCH 31, 1979.

3. PC CHAIRMAN (SIR LANKAN AMBASSADOR FERNANDO), COMMENTING TO THE PRESS ON THE CONCLUDED WORK ON THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, NOTED THAT A MEASURE OF ITS SUCCESS COULD BE SEEN FROM THE FACT THAT THE COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHED ITS TASK IN ONLY TWO MEETINGS INSTEAD OF THE FIVE FORESEEN. HE ADDED THAT "WE HAVE REMOVED THE CONCERN WHICH JUST A SHORT TIME AGO EXISTED IN REGARD TO THE UNITY AND STRENGTH OF OUR MOVEMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT OUR UNITY REMAINS INTACT." (COMMENT: FERNANDO'S ASSERTION MAY BE PREMATURE. THE PC DID NOT TACKLE ANY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES EXCEPT FOR SOME PROCEDURAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BELGRA 05429 251617Z

WRANGLING ON SAHARA. A REVISED YUGOSLAV DRAFT DECLARATION WAS DELIVERED TO DELEGATIONS AT THEIR HOTELS THE NIGHT OF JULY 24.)

8. FINALLY, THE STATISTICS. THERE ARE 113 DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE: 85 FULL MEMBERS (THE COMOROS DID NOT SEND A DELEGATION), 20 OBSERVERS, 7 GUESTS, AND BELIZE, WHICH HAS A "SPECIAL STATUS." 74 DELEGATIONS ARE HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS AND 16 BY "HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS."

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